

**TOWN OF EASTON, MARYLAND
Easton Town Hall
14 S. Harrison Street**

January 5, 2009

PRESENT AT CONVENING

Mayor Robert C. Willey
Council President John F. Ford

Councilmember Scott R. Jensen
Councilmember Leonard E. Wendowski
Councilmember Moonyene Jackson-Amis

IN ATTENDANCE

Also in attendance were the Town Manager Mr. Karge, Assistant Town Attorney Ms. VanEmburch and Town Clerk Ms. Ruf.

CONVENING

At 7:00 p.m., President Ford called the meeting to order.

Mr. Wendowski opened the meeting with prayer and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 15, 2008 MEETINGS

Upon motion by Ms. Jackson-Amis seconded by Mr. Jensen and carried unanimously; minutes of the December 15, 2008 meetings were approved as written.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION ON THE REQUEST FROM TOM DAVIS OF DAVIS, MOORE, SHEARON & ASSOCIATES ON BEHALF OF CALVERT TERRACE LLC FOR A PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL PUD SUBDIVISION (CALVERT TERRACE)

At the request of the applicant, Tom Davis; Mr. Wendowski made a motion to postpone discussion of the application seconded by Mr. Jensen and carried unanimously.

ITEMS BY THE EASTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Jamie McNeal was present on behalf of the Fire Department and wished the Council a Happy New Year. Mr. McNeal updated on the December statistical report and stated that he will bring the newly elected line officers to the upcoming meeting. Mr. McNeal discussed the top responders for 2008.

INTRODUCTION OF TROOP 532 WEBELOS SCOUTS

Members of Troop 532 were present working on their Citizens in the Community Badge.

ITEMS BY MAYOR WILLEY

Mayor Willey presented Maureen Scott-Taylor a plaque in recognition of her time spent on the Town Council.

Mayor Willey outlined the upcoming budget and stated that he has asked the department heads to cut their requests by 5%. He discussed shifting some duties around without hiring additional personnel.

Mayor Willey discussed affordable housing and a survey being conducted to compare salaries with other municipalities. He discussed infrastructure projects and recent meetings with public officials. Mayor Willey stated that there are revisions to be made to the Town of Easton handbook as well as the Charter and the Town's 300th Anniversary is coming up. With that, Mayor Willey asked that the Council look favorably on the appointment of Patrick J. Fitzgerald to the office of Assistant Town Attorney.

APPOINTMENT OF PATRICK J. FITZGERALD AS ASSISTANT TOWN ATTORNEY

Upon motion by Mr. Jensen seconded by Mr. Wendowski and carried unanimously, the appointment of Patrick J. Fitzgerald as Assistant Town Attorney was approved.

APPONTMENT OF SHARON VAN EMBURGH AS TOWN ATTORNEY

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2 Upon motion by Mr. Jensen seconded by Ms. Jackson-Amis and carried unanimously, the appointment
3 of Sharon Van Emburgh as Town Attorney was approved, to be effective upon the resignation of Mr.
4 Kehoe as he becomes a Judge of the Court of Special Appeals.

5
6 Mayor Willey administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Fitzgerald.

7
8 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER**

9
10 Mr. Karge stated that the Public Works Department will continue to recycle Christmas trees until the
11 end of next week. Any leaves for pickup need to be bagged.

12
13 Mr. Jensen asked if the Town should get with Congressman Kratovil to agree on infrastructure
14 projects. He suggested prioritizing projects for submission.

15
16 Mayor Willey discussed recent invitations to public officials.

17
18 **PUBLIC HEARING TO INTRODUCE THE COMMUNITY TO THE EASTON DOWNTOWN**
19 **PLAN AND RECOMMENDATIONS PREPARED BY THE AKRF CONSULTANT TEAM.**
20 **THE EASTON DOWNTOWN PLAN FOR INFILL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES**
21 **INCLUDING A STUDY AREA TIGHTLY FOCUSED ON THE CORE OF DOWNTOWN,**
22 **EXTENDING FROM SOUTH STREET TO THE SOUTH, TALBOTTOWN TO THE NORTH,**
23 **WEST STREET TO THE WEST, AND HANSON STREET TO THE EAST. THE AREA**
24 **INCLUDES THE COMMERCIAL CORE, THE TALBOT COUNTY GOVERNMENT**
25 **CENTER AND THE IMPORTANT TRANSITIONAL AREAS WHERE USES BLEND INTO**
26 **THE SURROUNDING RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS.**

27
28 At 7:28 p.m., the President of the Council opened the Public Hearing.

29
30 Ms. Maureen Scott-Taylor, Economic Development Director presented Easton Downtown plan and
31 recommendations prepared by the AKRF Consultant Team. Mr. Bond, former Economic Development
32 Coordinator was also present.

33
34 Ms. Scott-Taylor asked the Council to accept AKRF's plan as a new concept for infill development in
35 the downtown area.

36
37 Mr. Bond stated that the goal to strive for is to make the town truly pedestrian friendly with good
38 quality infrastructure and making places you would want to walk to.

39
40 Ms. Scott-Taylor discussed examples of using an infrastructure as an advantage to the town such as in
41 San Antonio and Frederick.

42
43 Ms. Scott-Taylor discussed parking strategies and multiple level parking structures.

44
45 Ms. Scott-Taylor stated that they will look for funding and corporate sponsors to help with associated
46 costs.

47
48 The Planning and Zoning Commission voted to adopt the Easton Downtown Plan 4 to 0. The Historic
49 District Commission voted to adopt the Plan as a non-binding tool when evaluating applications
50 coming before the Commission for the downtown area covered in the Plan.

51
52 At 8:16 p.m., President Ford opened the public hearing for comments.

53
54 Mr. Jay Corvan, Architect and Board Member of Historic Easton discussed the process where
55 Maryland Historical Trust came up with a portion of the money for the study as well as the Freeman
56 Corporation. He stated that this study lays out a pathway where many other things need to be
57 developed such as underlying zoning. He stated that this is just the right time to move ahead in
58 implementing formed base design codes and zoning. He recommends the plan be adopted.

59
60 Mr. Lehr Jackson stated that he became very interested in the downtown due to this plan. He stated that
61 this is a great roadmap to success to keep the historic fabric and character of Easton.

62
63 Ms. Shelby Mitchell, 202 Dover Street stated that she has invested business in Easton and urged the
64 Council to adopt this plan.

1 Mr. Lehr Jackson discussed traditional retail village communities. He stated that the little buildings on
2 Washington Street are only placeholders and not the end product.

3
4 Ms. Jackson-Amis asked for clarification regarding structures that may have to be demolished.

5
6 Ms. Scott-Taylor stated that these plans are just conceptual.

7
8 Mr. Bond stated that there is nothing in this plan that does not conform with existing zoning.

9
10 Ms. Scott-Taylor stated that the presentation is available on the Town's web page under the Planning
11 and Zoning tab.

12
13 At 8:41 p.m., President Ford closed the public hearing and stated that the record will be left open for
14 additional comments until close of business on Friday.

15
16 **LETTER FROM MR. BRUCE BUTLER, PRESIDENT, P.E.A.C.E. REQUESTING SUPPORT**
17 **FOR TALBOT COUNTY GANG ASSESSMENT**

18
19 Mayor Willey stated that Easton Police Department is heavily involved in gang monitoring activities.
20 Mayor Willey stated that he will speak to Chief Blue tomorrow regarding a volunteer.

21
22 **UPCOMING TOWN ELECTION FOR WARD I COUNCILMEMBER**

23
24 President Ford reminded everyone that there is an upcoming town election for Ward I councilmember
25 on January 12 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Easton Firehouse. He introduced candidates Steve
26 Fitzhugh, Kelley Malone and Thomas Nash. Mr. Ford congratulated the candidates on their efforts and
27 wished them best of luck.

28
29 **ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

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31 Wishes for a Happy New Year were echoed by members of the Council.

32
33 The Council congratulated Mr. Kehoe on his appointment as Judge to the Maryland Court of Special
34 Appeals.

35
36 Mr. Wendowski stated that First Night Talbot went well despite the weather.

37
38 **AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

39
40 Mr. Jeff Garner, 517 Goldsborough Street addressed the council regarding what he feels is the lack of
41 control of the handling of garbage in town. Mr. Garner stated that he does not think that citizens are
42 held responsible for how they put their trash out. He proposed the Town put a local ordinance in place
43 that would require citizens to put their trash in containers which would keep the trash under control.

44
45 Ms. Jackson-Amis discussed the concern of a citizen regarding her transporting from one community
46 to another calendars and t-shirts without a license peddler's. She stated that she will check in to the
47 matter.

48
49 **CLOSED SESSION**

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51 At 8:55 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Jensen seconded by Mr. Wendowski and carried unanimously, the
52 President of the Council convened into Executive Session for the advice of Counsel.

53
54 **ADJOURNMENT**

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56 Upon motion by Mr. Jensen seconded by Mr. Wendowski and carried unanimously; President Ford
57 adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting at 9:34 p.m.

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60 _____
Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk